

REMARKS

Claims 14-33 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, claim 14 has been amended to include the feature according to which the pre-form is clamped to the core by means of clamping elements so as to form a squeezed rim at the pre-form. Support for this amendment can be found in lines 5-9 on page 6 of the specification.

In addition, claim 33 has been added to set forth the feature according to which the squeezed rim is cut after cooling of the container. Support for this amendment can be found in the first full paragraph on page 6 of the specification.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added as a result of the addition to claim 14 and presentation of new claim 33.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dickinson, are respectfully requested.

In the reference to Dickinson, the mold halves 24a and 24b are pressed against the pre-form or parison 22 and against the

peripheral edge 53 of the plate 52. No additional clamping elements are provided in the reference.

In accordance with the present invention as claimed, on the other hand, additional clamping elements 8, illustrated in Fig. 7, are provided for pressing the pre-form 6 at the open end against the core 2 while forming a squeezed rim. This results in a precise sealing action, so that no air can escape during the subsequent inflation.

The reference also does not provide for cutting the squeezed rim after the container has cooled.

Therefore, it is submitted that claims 14, 16 and 17 are patentable over the art of record.

Applicant has noted that the Examiner has indicated that claims 19-32 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Claims 15 and 18 have been written in independent form. Accordingly, in view of the examiner's indication in paragraph 5 on page 3 of the office action, it is submitted that claims 15 and 18 are now also allowable over the art of record.

Since the application now contains five independent claims, the official fee for two independent claims in excess of three is submitted herewith.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

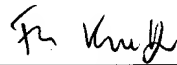
Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

FRIEDRICH KUEFFNER

Dated: December 30, 2003

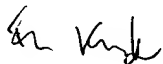
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Date: December 30, 2003